

FINANCIAL NEWS

STOCKS SOUGHT LOWER LEVELS;
SPECIALTIES LED DOWNWARD TURN

Very Little Support—Rumors That Manufacturers of War Munitions Will Be Taxed One Reason for Selling Pressure

NEW YORK, Dec. 2. Selling pressure continued at the opening of the Stock Exchange today, and nearly everything on the list went to lower levels. The war specialties led on the downward turn, and some of the losses in that group were quite large, notably in General Motors, which fell 10 points. Support in the early hours was almost entirely absent, although it was said by some that there was considerable buying by large interests on the scale down.

Several reasons were advanced for the weakness in the war stocks. The bears tried to make capital out of the speech of Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City Bank, on account of his intimation that manufacturers might find it advisable to get out of the war supply business, as he pointed out that, even should the war continue, the belligerent nations would not have enough money to pay for supplies.

Rumors were current that the President's message to Congress would provide for the taxation of war munition manufacturing plants and also for an export tax. It was pointed out that an export tax cannot be levied under the Constitution, but then it was said that this could be gotten around by an amendment. More meat for the bears on the war stocks were news dispatches from France and England that those countries are extending themselves as much as possible in the manufacture of munitions, so that it will not be necessary to spend so much money in the United States.

While the market showed some slight improvement around midday, it was very short-lived. There was renewed selling in the afternoon, and prices were driven down throughout the list. Demand on the declines was absent. As was the case in the morning, the war stocks were the chief leaders on the down swing. No special news was forthcoming to account for the weakness. Losses ranged from one to four points, while General Motors was an exception, still being down ten points. Late in the day the market rallied, but the majority of the list showed losses for the session.

The strength of the copper metal market failed to hold the copper shares, and substantial losses were shown in that group. Production by the Anaconda Copper Company in November was 24,400,000 pounds, a decrease of 500,000 pounds as compared with October, when the output was 24,900,000 pounds. The September production was 22,500,000.

BANKS REPORT
BUSINESS BOOM

Federal Reserve Bulletin Tells
of General Improvement in
Nearly All Branches

According to the Federal Reserve Bulletin, issued today by the board concerning District No. 3, business conditions throughout this district are gradually becoming better and substantial improvement is being reported in nearly all lines. Mills and factories of all kinds are working at nearer normal capacity than for some time. Some concerns have voluntarily increased wages and reduced working hours, and in many cases, payrolls are larger than they were ever before. There is a dearth of skilled mechanics and labor generally, so that are fully employed.

A decided improvement is reported in coal mining, many collieries working to capacity. Shippers, however, are confronted with a shortage of cars, which is likely to check the output to some extent. Crude oil and oil refining are operating at full time, with a good demand and increasing price. Coal consumption, both in home and foreign trade, Agricultural conditions are generally good and the farmers have had a prosperous year. In some sections the corn crop is only about 60 per cent. of normal, due to storms during the growing season. The apple and cranberry crops are reported as satisfactory. The Department of Commerce reports that the yield of all crops for this year to be considerably above the average yield for the last few years. The tobacco crop has been good, and it is curing nicely. There is increased activity in the leaf tobacco market, and satisfactory conditions prevail with regard to cigar manufacturers.

General retail trade throughout the district is improving, particularly in the Christmas holiday and winter trade, are buying freely. The textile trades are running at nearly normal capacity, knitting mills in particular showing much improvement. Silk and lace mills are very busy, and four new mills are being built in eastern Pennsylvania. Many hosiery mills are doing a capacity business, but it is predicted that there will be no policy to close unless a supply of garments can be obtained or else white hose.

White hose becomes the vogue.

Acceptance Business Extended

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2. In order to bring the advantages of the Federal Reserve Banks closer to the American business man engaged in the buying, selling and shipping of merchandise, the Federal Reserve Board today issued a new regulation extending the scope of the transaction of Federal Reserve banks in acceptances. Heretofore Federal Reserve banks have been restricted to lending money on notes secured by goods being either imported or exported. Today's regulation permits the Federal Reserve banks to lend, under prescribed regulations, on paper secured by goods shipped from one point to another within the United States.

DIVIDENDS DECLARED

Continental Passenger Railway Company, \$100,000,000, payable December 30, registered November 30; Calumet & Hecla, quarterly \$15; Illinois Central, regular quarterly \$2 per cent., payable January 1 to stock of record December 18; New York Central, regular semi-annual 3 per cent. on preferred, payable January 1, 1916, to stockholders of record December 16, 1915.

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